

Station 31 Task Force Meeting
January 30, 2004

Chief Greg Dean gave an update on the Station 31 personnel data collection effort. The data collection is complete. The data is now being cleaned and converted to an Access database. The data should be ready for the epidemiologists by the end of the first week in February.

David Chawes from Prezant Associates distributed a revised table of results from the industrial hygiene study. The table contains the detection limit and more sampling information requested by the physicians on the Medical Testing Advisory Panel. It includes the latest results from the indoor testing for chlorinated pesticides and pentachlorophenol. No indoor levels of these substances were detected. The table also includes results from additional lead surface wipes. David will send this additional information to Maggie McDonald who will forward it to the Medical Testing Advisory Panel. It will also be posted to the Station 31 website.

David Chawes reported that protocols are currently being written for lead abatement at the station. Cleaning of the floors and walls will start in mid-February. Additional samples are being taken to best determine how to clean up the lead in the soil. David will add to the protocol that equipment in the affected areas will be cleaned as it is removed. Lighting fixtures containing PCB ballasts will be changed out by the end of February.

Exercise equipment stored in the station is needed for new recruit physical agility tests next week. David Chawes will test the equipment for lead first thing Monday morning. Chief Dean will develop a back-up plan in the event that the equipment is contaminated and can't be cleaned before it is needed. Otherwise training staff can remove it.

David Chawes will bring the map of testing sites to Station 31 when he comes on Monday morning.

Maggie McDonald reported on the work of the expert panels. The Medical Testing Advisory Panel met on January 5th to review the results of the industrial hygiene study. The panel members were reassured by the results. They recommended that blood lead level tests be offered to current and former station members as an option if they have concerns about exposure. These will be available at no cost at the North Public Health Center. Chief Tipler will follow up regarding scheduling the regular medical monitoring of Station 31 members early in the cycle that begins in February so that members can have the blood lead level test if they so choose. The panel also recommended a communication be sent to station members which summarizes their impressions, provides information on medical screening and cancer signs and symptoms, and

reinforces that further information will be available after the completion of the epidemiological study. Maggie is coordinating this communication.

In regard to the Epidemiological Study Advisory Panel, Maggie met with the epidemiologists at the Department of Health who will conduct the study and provided a sample of the database. They are working on a draft of the study protocol and analytic plan. The plan is to convene a meeting of the panel at the end of February to review the draft plan and an overall work plan for the project.

There was a request by station 31 members that members of the expert panels be invited to visit Station 31 in person and talk with firefighters, answer questions, etc. Maggie will follow up with panel members about this.

Maggie reviewed the actual expenditures and current projected budget for the Station 31 project. Updates will be brought forward to future task force meetings.

Chief Ken Tipler read the highlights of a letter from Thomas Hales, MD, medical epidemiologist from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), dated January 26, 2004, which was just received. Dr. Hales conducted a site visit on December 18, 2003 and the letter summarizes his recommendations and serves to close the NIOSH file for the project. The letter will be posted at Station 31 and on the Station 31 web site.

In response to a question from Dennis Karl about sealants, Joe Garcia stated that there are no records about the product used in 1986 at the station. Water based sealants will be used in the future.

Joe also stated that with regard to the structural integrity analysis, nothing has shown up at Station 31 at present. Any issues would be incorporated into the 05/06 budget planning and the work approved in the recent levy.

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2004 at 1 pm.